REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicant adds claim 14 by way of this Amendment to further define the invention as discussed below. Claims 1-13 presently stand rejected.

Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant amends claim 10 to remove any ambiguities.

Regarding claim 11, the Examiner does not understand how it is possible for the writing process to be precedently executed before the request for printing, after the print request is generated.

Claim 11 is directed to the second embodiment of the invention. While the priority of tasks are changed based on the time period in the first embodiment, according to the second embodiment, the data quantity of the print request generated in the generation process is referred for determining whether or not the writing process is to be precedently executed by the CPU. With respect to the Examiner's objection that it is unclear how is it possible to precedently execute the writing process after the print request is generated, first print data subjected to the writing process which is precedently executed by a CPU is different from second print data corresponding to the request for printing generated prior to the writing process is executed. That is, the first print data is received by the printer after the second print data is received. Thus, Applicant submits that one of ordinary skill in the art can correctly interpret claim 11 by referring to the specification.

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shima et al. (EP 0782067 A2).

Claims 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shima et al. (EP 0782067 A2).

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shima et al. (EP 0782067 A2) in view of Zimmerman (5,590,237).

Analysis

Independent claim 1 is now rejected as being anticipated by Shima '067. Shima '067 is directed to an image information print system. However, the relative priorities of the tasks discussed in column 14 are not varied. Instead, the tasks are executed alternately based on their assigned priorities, i.e. they are executed in order based on their "assigned priority", and such executions are initiated in several-msec-order time units. Regarding the Examiner's comments regarding that the priorities of Shima '067 "must be varied", Applicant submits that if task A is assigned a priority over task B, this does not mean that task B will never be processed. Rather, task B will always be processed after task A as long as task A has a higher priority. Regarding the Examiner's comments that the predetermined event in Shima '067 is when several –msec ends, this does not cause a variation in priorities. The "predetermined event" recited in the claims, when read in light of the specification, is an event which would trigger a change in the previously assigned priorities of the tasks. There is no teaching or suggestion that a relative order of priority is **varied** when time elapses in Shima '067.

In view of the foregoing, claim 1 is not anticipated by Shima '067.

In addition, claims 2-6 are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, by virtue of their dependency therefrom.

Independent claim 7 is now rejected as being anticipated by Shima '067 also. However, as discussed above regarding claim 1, Shima '067 does not teach or suggest that a predetermined event could cause a change in the execution of the tasks. Moreover, there is no suggestion that the writing means is executed more precedently than a generation of a request for printing, when such a predetermined event occurs during processing of said request for printing.

In view of the foregoing, claim 7 is not anticipated by Shima '067.

In addition, claims 8-9 are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 7, by virtue of their dependency therefrom.

Independent claim 10 is rejected as being obvious in view of Shima '067. However, as discussed above, Shima '067 does not contemplate changing the priorities of tasks. Rather, the tasks are assigned priorities (col. 16, line 26), and executed accordingly. Although the term "alternately" is used in line 27 of col. 16, there is no indication that this means that the order of the priorities is reversed. Rather, it means that each task alternates in turn, according to its priority. There is no support in the remaining portions of Shima '067 to support an interpretation that the priorities of the writing process and the generation process are reversed every predetermined time interval. Moreover, there is no teaching or suggestion for this feature either and thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify Shima '067 to have a priority of the writing process and a priority of the generation process reversed every predetermined time interval.

In view of the foregoing, claim 10 is not unpatentable over Shima '067.

Independent claim 11 has not been rejected based on the cited prior art. Therefore, claim 11 should be indicated as allowed once the indefiniteness rejection is overcome.

Independent claim 12 is rejected as being anticipated by Shima '067. With respect to this claim, Applicant amends the language to clarify that the printing task is always precedently executed by reciting the scheduler, priority changing section and priority table of the CPU. This amendment is intended to highlight the scheduler function which changes the priorities in the priority table, and that the printing task is always the highest priority as discussed on page 21 and Figure 9 of the pending application. The printing task is always set at the highest priority when a laser printer is used, to most efficiently operate the print engine of the laser printer. Shima '067 does not include a scheduler or priority changing section, and thus, makes no teaching or suggestion that it is capable of changing priorities of tasks so that the printing task is always executed with the highest priority.

In view of the foregoing, claim 12 is not anticipated by Shima '067.

Independent claim 13 is rejected as being anticipated by Shima '067 also. With respect to this claim, Applicant clarifies the language along the lines discussed regarding claim 12. In particular, the scheduler, priority changing section and priority table are clarified, in order to show that there is an actual part of the program that re-orders the priority table based on predetermined event. Shima '067 is silent with respect to such a feature, and merely executes the tasks in their originally assigned order.

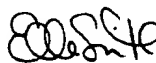In view of the foregoing, claim 13 is not anticipated by Shima '067.

Finally, Applicant adds a dependent claim 14 to depend from claim 1, to recite the

scheduler, and in particular, the "structure" which enables the changing of the priorities. Shima

'067 completely fails to teach or suggest these features, and thus, claim 14 is patentable.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed

to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is

kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue

Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any

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Respectfully submitted,

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